

In The Claims:

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for the impregnation and treatment of [microbially degradable, contaminatable and/or perishable substances/objects or parasite-attacked substances/objects, wherein said substances/objects are] articles selected from the group consisting of wood/timber and wood products, textiles and textile raw materials, plastics and rubbers [prone to germ contamination], natural and mineral insulation and sealant materials, construction materials made of mineral and natural substances, filters, soils and fertilizers, animal-derived raw materials, paints, lubricants, adhesives, detergents and cleaning agents; comprising the step of
- [the distribution or application of an antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] applying a composition to the surface of the [above-mentioned degradable, contaminatable and/or perishable subjects/objects] article; and/or
- [the incorporation of] incorporating said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition into said [degradable, contaminatable and/or perishable substances/objects] article;
- wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [containing] comprises at least two GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavoring agents, [but wherein said antiparasitic composition does] that are not [exclusively

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contain] solely cinnamic aldehyde or a mixture of cinnamic aldehyde and terpenes.

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3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises at least one GRAS flavor alcohol [(a), preferably an aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol, especially benzyl alcohol].

4. (Amended) The method according to claim[s] 3, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises less than 50% by weight[, preferably less than 30% by weight, more preferably less than 20% by weight,] of an alcohol selected from the group consisting of ethanol, isopropanol or benzyl alcohol or a mixture of these [substances] alcohols.

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5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises at least one hydrophilic alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent and/or one hydrophilic non-alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent.

6. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition further [contains] comprises benzyl alcohol and/or a polyphenol compound [(b)].

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises one or more GRAS flavor alcohols or their derivatives (a) and one or more flavoring agents selected from polyphenol compounds (b) and GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives (c).
8. (Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein said antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic composition [contains] comprises:
 from 0.1 to 99% by weight[, preferably from 0.5 to 99% by weight,] of component (a);
 from 0.01 to 25% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 10% by weight,] of component (b); and
 from 0.01 to 70% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 30% by weight,] of component (c).
9. (Amended) The method according to claim 7 [or 8], wherein said GRAS flavor alcohol (a) is selected from the group consisting of:
 benzyl alcohol, acetoin, ethyl alcohol, propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, propylene glycol, glycerol, n-butyl alcohol, iso-butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, L-menthol, octyl alcohol, cinnamyl alcohol, α -methylbenzyl alcohol, heptyl alcohol, n-amyl alcohol, iso-amyl alcohol, anisalcohol, citronellol, n-decyl alcohol, geraniol, β , γ -hexenol, lauryl alcohol, linalool, nerolidol, nonadienol, nonyl alcohol, rhodinol, terpineol, borneol, clineol, anisole, cuminyl alcohol, 10-undecene-1-ol, 1-hexadecanol or their derivatives;

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said polyphenol compound (b) is selected from the group consisting of: catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, phloroglucinol, pyrogallol, cyclohexane, resveratrol, usnic acid, acylpolyphenols, lignins, anthocyanins, flavones, catechols, gallic acid derivatives, caffeic acid, flavonoids, derivatives of the mentioned polyphenols, and extracts from Camellia, Primula; and

said GRAS acid (c) is selected from the group consisting of: acetic acid, aconitic acid, adipic acid, formic acid, malic acid, capronic acid, hydrocinnamic acid, pelargonic acid, lactic acid, phenoxyacetic acid, phenylacetic acid, valeric acid, iso-valeric acid, cinnamic acid, citric acid, mandelic acid, tartaric acid, fumaric acid, tannic acid and their derivatives.

10. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 7 [to 9], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises:
- (a1) an aromatic GRAS flavor alcohol[, especially benzyl alcohol, as a necessary component]; and optionally
 - (a2) at least one [or more further] additional GRAS flavor alcohol[s] or [their] its derivative[s]; and
 - (b) at least one [or more] polyphenol compound[s]; and[/or] optionally
 - (c) at least one [or more] GRAS acid[s] or [their] its derivative[s].
11. (Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises:

from 0.1 to 99% by weight[, preferably from 0.1 to 75% by weight,] of benzyl alcohol;

from 0.01 to 99.8% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 99% by weight,] of component (a2); [and]

from 0.01 to 25% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 10% by weight,] of component (b); and

from 0.01 to 70% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 30% by weight,] of component (c).

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12. (Amended) The method according to claim 10 [or 11], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises at least one [or more] polyphenol compound[s] (b) as a necessary component and optionally at least one [or more] GRAS acid[s] (c) or [their] its derivative[s].
 13. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 7 [to 12], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises further GRAS flavoring agents selected from (d) phenols, (e) esters, (f) terpenes, (g) acetals, (h) aldehydes and (i) essential oils.
 14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises from 0.001 to 25% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 9% by weight,] of said further GRAS flavoring agents (d) to (i).

15. (Amended) The method according to claim 13 [or 14], wherein said further GRAS flavoring agents are phenols [(d)] and/or essential oils [(i)].
16. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 2 [to 15], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition does not contain any derivatives of said GRAS flavoring agents.
17. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 10 [to 16], wherein said antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic composition [contains] comprises one or two GRAS flavor alcohols [(a2)] and at least one polyphenol compound [(b)].
18. (Amended) The method according to claim 17, wherein said polyphenol compound [(b)] is tannin.
19. (Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises from 0.1 to 98% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannin.
20. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises:
[(ii)] (i) at least one lipophilic GRAS (generally recognized as safe) flavoring agent; and

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(ii) at least one hydrophilic GRAS flavoring agent.

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22. (Amended) The method according to claim 20 [or 21], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises at least two lipophilic GRAS flavoring agents[, preferably two lipophilic GRAS flavor alcohols (a_l)].
23. (Amended) The method according to claim 21 [or 22], wherein said lipophilic GRAS flavor alcohols are selected from the group consisting of aromatic GRAS flavor alcohols, including benzyl alcohol, 2-phenylethanol, 1-phenylethanol, cinnamyl alcohol, hydrocinnamyl alcohol, 1-phenyl-1-propanol and anisalcohol, and aliphatic GRAS flavor alcohols, including n-butyl alcohol, iso-butyl alcohol, hexyl alcohol, L-menthol, octyl alcohol, heptyl alcohol, n-amyl alcohol, iso-amyl alcohol, anisalcohol, citronellol, n-decyl alcohol, geraniol, β , γ -hexenol, lauryl alcohol, linalool, nerolidol, nonadienol, nonyl alcohol, rhodinol, terpineol, borneol, clineol, anisole, cuminyl alcohol, 10-undecene-1-ol and 1-hexadecanol and their derivatives[, wherein the aromatic GRAS flavor alcohols, especially benzyl alcohol, are preferred].
24. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 20 [to 23], wherein said hydrophilic GRAS flavoring agent is selected from the group consisting of a hydrophilic alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent [(a_h) or] and a hydrophilic non-alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent, wherein [said hydrophilic alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent (a_h) is preferably a monohydric or polyhydric

alcohol having from 2 to 10, preferably from 2 to 7, carbon atoms, which is more preferably selected from acetoin, ethyl alcohol, propyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, propylene glycol and glycerol; and]

said hydrophilic non-alcoholic GRAS flavoring agent is a hydrophilic organic GRAS flavor acid [(c_n)] having from 1 to 15 carbon atoms or a physiological salt thereof, a hydrophilic acetate [(e_n)] or a hydrophilic aldehyde [(h_n)].

25. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said hydrophilic organic acid [(c_n)] contains from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and is [especially] selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, aconitic acid, formic acid, malic acid, lactic acid, phenylacetic acid, citric acid, mandelic acid, tartaric acid, fumaric acid, tannic acid, hydrocinnamic acid and their physiological salts;
- said hydrophilic acetate [(e_n)] is selected from the group consisting of allicin, triacetin, potassium acetate, sodium acetate and calcium acetate; and/or said hydrophilic aldehyde [(h_n)] is selected from the group consisting of furfural, propionaldehyde and vanillin.

26. (Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or anti-parasitic] composition [contains] comprises less than 50% by weight[, preferably less than 30% by weight, more preferably less than 20% by weight,] of benzyl alcohol or of a mixture of benzyl alcohol with ethanol and/or isopropanol.

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 24 [or 25], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises two lipophilic GRAS flavor alcohols [(a)], but no benzyl alcohol and no polyphenol compounds [(b)].
28. (Amended) The method according to claim 24 [or 25], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises benzyl alcohol and/or a polyphenol compound [(b)], but no further GRAS flavor alcohols.
29. (Amended) The method according to claim 27 [or 28], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains exclusively non-alcoholic hydrophilic GRAS flavoring agents, especially exclusively] consists of a hydrophilic GRAS flavor acid [(c_h)].
30. (Amended) The method according to claim 28 [or 29], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises: from 0.01 to 99% by weight[, preferably from 0.1 to 90% by weight,] of benzyl alcohol or polyphenol compounds [(b)]; and from 0.01 to 50% by weight[, preferably from 0.1 to 30% by weight,] of hydrophilic non-alcoholic GRAS flavoring agents.
31. (Amended) The method according to claim 20 [or 21], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises:

- (A) one or more GRAS flavor alcohols (a) or their derivatives; and
- (B) one or more flavoring agents selected from polyphenol compounds (b) and lipophilic GRAS flavor acids or their derivatives (c).

32. (Amended) The method according to claim 31, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or anti-parasitic] composition [contains] comprises:

from 0.1 to 99% by weight[, preferably from 0.5 to 99% by weight,] of component (a);

from 0.01 to 25% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 10% by weight], of component (b); and

from 0.01 to 70% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 30% by weight,] of component (c).

33. (Amended) The method according to claim 31 [or 32], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises further GRAS flavoring agents selected from (d) phenols or their derivatives, (e) lipophilic esters, (f) terpenes, (g) acetals, (h) lipophilic aldehydes and (i) essential oils.

34. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 31 [to 33], wherein said polyphenol compound (b) is selected from the group consisting of:

catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, phloroglucinol, pyrogallol, cyclohexane, resveratrol, usnic acid, acylpolyphenols, lignins, anthocyanins, flavones,

catechols, gallic acid derivatives, caffeic acid, flavonoids, derivatives of the mentioned polyphenols, and extracts from Camellia, Primula; and

said lipophilic GRAS acid (c) is selected from the group consisting of:
adipic acid, capronic acid, pelargonic acid, phenoxyacetic acid, valeric acid, iso-valeric acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid and their derivatives.

35. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 31 [to 34], wherein component (A) of said [antimicrobial/antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises benzyl alcohol [as a necessary component (a₁)] and optionally one or more further lipophilic GRAS flavor alcohols or their derivatives (a_i).
36. (Amended) The method according to claim [34 or] 35, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises:
from 0.1 to 99% by weight[, preferably from 0.1 to 75% by weight,] of benzyl alcohol;
from 0.01 to 99.8% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 99% by weight,] of component (a_i); [and]
from 0.01 to 25% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 10% by weight,] of component (b); and
from 0.01 to 70% by weight[, preferably from 0.01 to 30% by weight,] of component (c).

37. (Amended) The method according to claim [35 or 36] 31, wherein component (B) of said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises at least one [or more] polyphenol compound[s] (b) [as a necessary component] and optionally (c) one or more GRAS acids or their derivatives.

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38. (Amended) The method according to claim 36 [or 37], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises [further GRAS flavoring agents (d) to (i), preferably] from 0.001 to 25% by weight[, more preferably from 0.01 to 9% by weight,] of [said further] at least one GRAS flavoring agent[s (d) to (i)] selected from the group consisting of phenols and their derivatives, lipophilic esters, terpenes, acetals, lipophilic aldehydes and essential oils.

39. (Amended) The method according to claim 38, wherein said further GRAS flavoring agents are phenols [(d)] and/or essential oils [(i)].

40. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 21 [to 39], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition does not contain any derivatives of said GRAS flavoring agents.

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41. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 34 [to 40], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises one or two lipophilic GRAS flavor alcohols (a₁) and at least one polyphenol compound (b).

43. (Amended) The method according to claim 42, wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [contains] comprises from 20 to 98% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannin.
44. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 1 [to 43], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [further contains] comprises at least one additive selected from the group consisting of monohydric or polyhydric alcohols having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms, emulsifiers, stabilizers, antioxidants, preservatives, solvents and/or carriers.
45. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 1 [to 43], wherein said [antimicrobial and/or antiparasitic] composition [exclusively consists of] contains GRAS flavoring agents.
46. (Amended) The method according to [one or more of] claim[s] 1 [to 21], wherein said [microbially degradable and/or perishable substances/objects] articles are selected from air filters, wool and cotton.
47. (Amended) [Use of an antimicrobial/antiparasitic] A method of treatment of the articles defined in claim 1 comprising the step of applying the composition as defined in claim[s] 1 [to 45, preferably as defined in claims 20 to 45,] for the impregnation or surface treatment of [microbially degradable, contaminatable and/or perishable substances/objects or of parasite-attacked substances/objects or of substances/objects which have to be self-